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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,059	02/16/2001	David Frederick Bantz	YOR920000804US1	5389

7590 05/30/2003

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EXAMINER

ELISCA, PIERRE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3621	

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,059

Applicant(s)

David Frederick Bantz et al.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/16/2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2

6) Other: _____

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Examiner Pierre Eddy Elisca
United States Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Application No. 09/788,059, filed on 02/16/2001.
2. Claims 1-33 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fader et al.(U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,570) in view of Baldwin et al. (6,310,952).

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As per claims 1-3, 5-11 Fader substantially discloses a system/method of conducting a time-auction among queuing customers. A bid is received from one of the queuing customers and compared with the prices being offered by the other customers waiting in line. The queuing showing a user's updated position in the queue due to having bid a higher rate to receive services from the information provider (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method of providing service provider information to a client device in a distributed computer system) comprising: obtaining at least one bid from one or more service providers for providing a service (see., abstract, col 2, lines 36-39, fig 5, col 6, lines 47-64, specifically wherein it is stated that the customer is billed at the highest bid price for the services received from the service provider); providing the at least one bid from the one or more service providers (abstract, col 6, lines 47-64). It is to be noted that Fader fails to explicitly disclose an estimated time completion for the service. However, Baldwin discloses a method/system for providing easy access to a service provider that provides service over a communications system. A queue 27 informs a caller of an estimated amount of time before the caller will reach the top of the queue. A set of information includes information such as the name of the caller, the amount of money the caller is willing to pay, or bid , for a queue (see., Baldwin, col 4, lines 33-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the time-auction of Fader by including the limitation detail above because such modification would provide automated access to service providers based upon an estimated amount of time.

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As per claim 4, Fader discloses the claimed method wherein the at least one bid includes a price for providing the service (see., abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that a bid is received from one of the queuing customers and compared with the prices being offered by the other customers).

As per claims 12-14, 16-25, and 27-33 Fader substantially discloses apparatus of conducting a time-auction among queuing customers. A bid is received from one of the queuing customers and compared with the prices being offered by the other customers waiting in line. The queuing showing a user's updated position in the queue due to having bid a higher rate to receive services from the information provider (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that an apparatus of providing service provider information to a client device in a distributed computer system) comprising:

obtaining at least one bid from one or more service providers for providing a service (see., abstract, col 2, lines 36-39, fig 5, col 6, lines 47-64, specifically wherein it is stated that the customer is billed at the highest bid price for the services received from the service provider);

providing the at least one bid from the one or more service providers (abstract, col 6, lines 47-64).

It is to be noted that Fader fails to explicitly disclose an estimated time completion for the service. However, Baldwin discloses a method/system for providing easy access to a service provider that provides service over a communications system. A queue 27 informs a caller of an estimated amount of time before the caller will reach the top of the queue. A set of information includes information such as the name of the caller, the amount of money the caller is willing to pay, or bid , for a queue

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(see., Baldwin, col 4, lines 33-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the time-auction of Fader by including the limitation detail above because such modification would provide automated access to service providers based upon an estimated amount of time.

As per claims 15, 26, Fader discloses the claimed limitations wherein the at least one bid includes a price for providing the service (see., abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that a bid is received from one of the queuing customers and compared with the prices being offered by the other customers).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Pierre Eddy Elisca at (703) 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 6:30AM. to 5:00PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

The Official Fax Number For TC-3600 is:

Serial Number: 09/788,059

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(703) 305-7687



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Patent Examiner

March 28, 2003